

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

DIVISION OF STATEWIDE PLANNING

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May 17, 2002

Mr. Roy S. Matsuno
Tribal Administrator, Ugashik Traditional Village
206 E. Fireweed Lane, #204
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Mr. Matsuno:

Thank you for your letter of March 12 concerning the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan. In it you brought up the need for access to a deep-water port, and specifically identified your interest in a road from Ugashik to Wide Bay. We appreciate your identification of this particular route and your explanation of the need it is intended to meet. We would welcome any additional background as to the route's historical and traditional use.

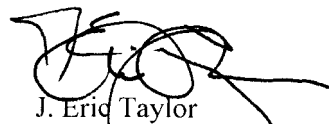
At the same time, we view this particular route as representing a community interest, rather than one specific to the region at large. I echo an earlier response provided in a March 15 email to Robert Eckstrom:

"We agree that the specifics of the particular Alaska Peninsula Highway (APH) corridor alignment in the draft plan can be improved upon (i.e., highland terrain vs. lowlands). However that is the task of a more detailed route study which would likely occur when a subsequent plan deems such investigation appropriate. At this stage such details are of negligible consequence. The primary purpose for listing the APH corridors in the Southwest Transportation Plan has been to document the need for connecting the communities (as expressed by the plan advisory committee). I personally think that this is the key point that community leaders need to keep making well after the ink is dry on the plan. Fragmenting the collective need identified during planning into individual community self-interest will lead to further legislative inaction and no improvement for anyone. The plan is a beginning, not an ending. A lot of work remains to be done to bring any of it to reality."

"While we did not intend for the plan to be used to dismiss claims to historic and traditional use corridors, we see how that could be a possible interpretation of omitting those routes in the plan itself. Therefore we will include an appropriate clause in the final plan to clarify that a continued state interest in them remains."

Thank you again for your valued input. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



J. Eric Taylor
Area Plans Coordinator

copy to:
Jeff Harman, BIA Alaska Regional Office
Jack Melton, DOT&PF Central Region Planning